

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY FIRE INVESTIGATION TASK FORCE

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Brown County Fire Investigation Task Force was held on June 23, 2011, at 9:00 a.m., at the Allouez Fire Department, 135 Dauphin St., Green Bay, WI.

Present: Jude Trimberger, Todd Thomas, Kevin Tielens, Tom Vandennack, Chris Heil, Todd Delain, Neil Cameron, Brad Muller, Derek Beiderwieden, Robert Kiser

Excused: John Gossage, Jim Arts, Rick Davidson

Absent: Larry Mours, Jeff Roemer, Eric Dunning, Ed Janke, Nick Craig, Karl Fleury, Kevin Heimerl, Larry Wilson, John Zakowski

### Item #1. Adoption of Agenda.

Motion was made by Vandennack and seconded by Beiderwieden to adopt the agenda. **Motion carried.**

### Item #2. Review Minutes of Meeting of March 17, 2011.

Motion was made by Biederwieden and seconded by Delain to approve the minutes of the last meeting. **Motion carried.**

### Item #3. Report of Monthly Activities of the Fire Investigation Unit.

03-19-11 738 Maywood Ave., Howard (residence/accidental)  
03-23-11 4378 Windemer Ln., Hobart (residence/accidental)  
04-06-11 4588 Choctaw Tr., Hobart (residence/accidental)  
05-05-11 544 School Rd., New Franken (residence/accidental)  
05-11-11 1315 Weise St., Green Bay (two-family residence/arson)  
05-21-11 2350 E. Mason St., Green Bay (business/accidental)  
05-30-11 1700 Arabian Dr., Green Bay (residence/under investigation)  
06-18-11 1130 Eliza St., Green Bay (garage/under investigation)

### Item #4. Report of General Membership President.

Muller reported that eight investigators and four interns attended the IAAI spring conference. Investigators Deviley, Gabe, and Rottier received the team award for the investigation of the fire at 1032 Pine Street on September 9, 2009. The next meeting is set for September 1, 2011, at Howard Fire Station #1.

Item #5. Old Business.

A. Status of County Agreement with MABAS.

Memo received from Sheriff Gossage stating that he spoke with corporation counsel who informed him that if the task force was turned over to another entity other than the Sheriff's Department, funding would go away. Motion made by Kiser and seconded by Cameron that the Brown County Fire Investigation Task Force remain under the entity of the Brown County Sheriff's Department. **Motion carried.** After further discussion, motion was made by Kiser and seconded by Beiderwieden to table the previous motion and set up another meeting with corporation counsel and Kiser and Muller to discuss again how MABAS works. **Motion carried.** At hand is the liability issue.

Item #6. New Business.

A. Review Chris Heil's investigator status.

Muller explained that fire investigators are annually required to attend 50 percent of meetings and 20 hours of training and respond to a minimum of 25 percent of calls. He stated that since 2007 Heil has not met these requirements, as shown in the log that he distributed. He stated that other interns would like to become investigators. He requested that Heil be removed from the fire investigation task force. Heil did state that he would like to stay on the task force. Motion was made by Muller and seconded by Beiderwieden to move Heil from an investigator to an intern. **Motion carried.** After further discussion, Heil stated that he would step back as investigator to intern. Motion was made by Muller and seconded by Delain to rescind the previous motion. **Motion carried.** It was suggested that an annual report showing how many hours investigators/interns have attained be sent to them.

B. Intern wages.

Muller stated that interns now only get \$20 when they go out on a call and that they spend a lot of time on these fires. He suggested setting an hourly rate for interns. After discussion, motion was made by Kiser and seconded by Cameron to recommend to the sheriff that interns receive reimbursement of \$20 per hour effective July 1, 2011. **Motion carried.**

C. Investigator wages for those from volunteer fire departments.

After discussion, motion was made by Kiser and seconded by Muller to recommend to the sheriff an increase in wages for investigators from volunteer fire departments to \$30 per hour. **Motion carried.**

Item #7. Report of Juvenile Firesetter Program Coordinator.

Nick Craig was not present to give a report.

Item #8. Other Matters.

Kiser received three applications for interns from Steven Yedica, a detective sergeant with the De Pere Police Department; Adam Butry, a four-year volunteer firefighter with the New Franken Fire Department; and Kevin Krueger, a volunteer firefighter with the Denmark Fire Department. Motion was made by Heil and seconded by Vandenack to approve these three individuals as interns. **Motion carried.**

Muller stated that the Daubert expert testimony ruling has set the standard for investigators and that investigators should take the FIT certification that the Board recommended. The goal is to get them certified at the CFI level. He stated that the bylaws and operating guidelines should be revisited to make it a requirement to get this done within a certain amount of time. Muller and Kiser will meet to discuss this further.

Item #9. Set Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting.

The next meeting was set for September 15, 2011, at 9:00 a.m., at the Allouez Fire Department, 135 Dauphin Street, Green Bay, WI.

Item #10. Adjourn.

Motion was made by Cameron and seconded by Muller to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Laurent  
Recording Secretary